DC/MARVEL

ACCESS

MARVEL COMICS

PART THREE OF FOUR

3 | $1.95 US $2.75 CAN

MARZ
GUICE
RUBINSTEIN

STARRING BATMAN & DR. STRANGE

THERE'S THE SCORPION, WHO'S HERE IN GOTHAM FOR REASONS I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS...

MORE COSTUMED JERKS GETTING IN MY WAY! BELIEVE ME, YOU JUST GOT TANGLED UP WITH THE WRONG...

...AND THERE'S ROBIN AND JUBILEE, WHO ARE HERE BECAUSE SHE HAD A WHOLE STAR-CROSSED LOVERS SCENARIO BUILT UP...

...AND THEN THERE'S ME, ACCESS. I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M AN IDIOT.

JUBILEE, GET BEHIND ME.

FWIPP!

...huh?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO--?

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In The DOCTOR'S HOUSE

BATMAN!

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THIS WHOLE MESS GOT STARTED BECAUSE I TRIED TO BE A NICE GUY. I BROUGHT JUBILEE TO THIS UNIVERSE SO SHE COULD SEE ROBIN ONE LAST TIME.

CHUD!

MIXING UNIVERSES ISN'T A GREAT IDEA. IT CAN LEAD TO REALITY-SHAKING COMPLICATIONS. BUT SHE TALKED ME INTO IT.

--BGGF:-

EVERYTHING'S BEEN DOWNHILL EVER SINCE.

UNTIL BATMAN SHOWED UP.

ONE CHANCE TO SURRENDER.

NOW.

SURRENDER?

SURRENDER?!

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?! THE SCORPION DOESN'T SURRENDER TO ANYONE!

YOU WANT A WHITE FLAG?

TRY THIS INSTEAD!

KRAK!

BURN!

I WAS WITH BATMAN WHEN THE UNIVERSES WERE SAVED.

SSSSSSSS

BY VIRTUE OF THE LIVES THEY'VE LIVED AND THE KIND OF HEROES THEY ARE...

YOU HAD YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

WHSSK!

...HE AND CAPTAIN AMERICA STOPPED THE COSMIC ENTITIES FROM DESTROYING ONE ANOTHER, AND EVERYTHING ELSE ALONG WITH THEM.

THAK!

AG--

THE TWO MOST HUMAN OF HEROES PRESERVED TWO ENTIRE REALITIES.

I MEAN, SCORPION'S STRONGER THAN SPIDER-MAN...

WHUMP!

--GUHH!

...BUT BATS KNEW JUST WHERE TO HIT SCORP WITH THAT BATARANG TO SOFTEN HIM UP...

...OBVIOUSLY.

ROBIN. EXPLAIN.

WELL, FROM THE BEGINNING?

YOU'LL FIND TWO-FACE IN THERE. HE KIND OF SURPRISED US, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE HIM OUT WITH A LITTLE TRICKERY AND A LOT OF LUCK.

YOU TOOK ON HARVEY BY YOURSELF? FOOLISH. YOU SHOULD HAVE RADIOED ME, THEN SAT TIGHT.

TWO-FACE IS A KILLER, ROBIN. YOU KNOW THAT.

I'M SORRY, BUT WITH JUBILEE IN DANGER, I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER IF I...

...IF I TRIED...

...I'M SORRY.

YOU'RE... JUBILEE?

JUBILATION LEE. PLEASED TA MEETCHA.

Mmmm.

THE OTHER ONE I ALREADY KNOW. ACCESS.

IT'S, um...

...GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BATMAN. I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU'D REMEMBER ME FROM...

...YOU KNOW, FROM THAT WHOLE COSMIC THING WITH YOU AND CAPTAIN AMERICA.*

*DC VS. MARVEL #4.

I'VE KIND OF GOT THE JOB OF KEEPING THE UNIVERSES *SEPARATE* NOW.

AND THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT IS TO BRING A TEENAGED GIRL SOMEWHERE SHE DOESN'T *BELONG*?

TO THIS UNIVERSE? *THIS* CITY?

WELL...

...IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE SUCH A *BAD IDEA* AT THE TIME.

AND WHAT ABOUT *THIS* PSYCHOTIC? YOU BROUGHT *HIM* AS WELL.

NO, SIR. I DON'T KNOW *HOW* HE GOT HERE. HE JUST... *APPEARED*, I GUESS.

IT'S NOT THE *FIRST TIME* SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAS HAPPENED, SOME-BODY *CROSSING* UNIVERSES.

A CREATURE NAMED *VENOM* SHOWED UP IN METROPOLIS--

I'M *AWARE* OF WHO VENOM IS.

Uh, RIGHT. I'M GETTING *BETTER* AT THIS, SEE? I CAN SEND THE SCORPION BACK WHERE HE'S *SUPPOSED* TO BE...

...BUT IT'S ONLY A *TEMP-ORARY* SOLU-TION. I NEED TO KNOW *WHY* WHAT-EVER'S HAPPEN-ING IS *HAPPENING*.

I WISH YOU LUCK.

HEY!

WAIT!

I COULD USE YOUR HELP WITH THIS. WE COULD BE DEALING WITH A SERIOUS THREAT.

IF EVERYTHING'S NOT PUT BACK IN ORDER, WE COULD END UP WITH A COMBINED UNIVERSE AGAIN! WE CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!

I DON'T USUALLY INVOLVE MYSELF IN MATTERS OF A... COSMIC ... NATURE. THEY'RE BETTER LEFT TO SOMEONE WITH A MORE APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND.

SUPERMAN, OR PERHAPS GREEN LANTERN.

YEAH, THOSE GUYS ARE POWERHOUSES.

BUT WHAT I REALLY NEED IS SOMEONE TO HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON. AND WHY.

WHAT I REALLY NEED IS A DETECTIVE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT'S ALL ABOUT?

CAN'T SAY FOR SURE, BUT I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD GUESS.

I THINK IT'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING IN THE OTHER UNIVERSE THAT'S CAUSING IT, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE VENOM AND THE SCORPION ORIGINATED.

THAT'S WHERE THE ANSWER IS.

I DON'T WANT THIS TO GET ANY MORE DANGEROUS THAN IT ALREADY IS. PLEASE...

...COME WITH ME.

KRAKOOM!

YES.

I'LL GO.

ROBIN, I'M GOING WITH HIM TO THE OTHER UNIVERSE SO WE CAN FIND OUT WHY THESE TRANS-FERENCES ARE TAKING PLACE.

YOU'LL STAY BEHIND. THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF RISK I WANT YOU TAKING.

I UNDER-STAND.

LET'S GO, JUBILEE. WE'RE LEAVING.

NOW?!

COME ON, ROBIN AND I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO, LIKE, GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER ANY BETTER OR ANYTHING! IT'S NOT FAIR!

SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME. WE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING AND STOP IT.

SAY YOUR GOODBYES AND LET'S GET GOING.

RIGHT. FINE.

ROBIN?

THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO SAY AND I--

EXCUSE ME? HELLO?

CAN WE GET A LITTLE PRIVACY HERE?

OH, UM, SURE...

...SORRY.

GUESS I GOTTA KEEP THIS *SHORT*.

I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU WHAT A REALLY *GREAT* GUY YOU ARE, AND I'M REALLY GLAD I *MET* YOU. I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A *GIRLFRIEND* AND STUFF, BUT...

...WELL, MAYBE ONCE IN A WHILE YOU'LL *THINK* OF ME.

YEAH, *ABSOLUTELY* I WILL.

SO THIS IS *GOODBYE*. TOO BAD. 'CAUSE MAYBE IN THE *SAME* UNIVERSE WE, *uh*...

...YOU KNOW, WE MIGHT'VE *BEEN* SOME-THING.

MAYBE IN THE SAME UNIVERSE. GUESS WE'LL NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO *FIND OUT*.

'BYE, JUBILEE.

GOTHAM CITY PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
"Romeo & Juliet"
SPRANG THEATRE
NIGHTLY

OKAY, WE CAN GO NOW.

BOY, WHAT'S ARI GONNA SAY ABOUT THAT?

WAIT FOR COMMISSIONER GORDON AND THE POLICE TO ARRIVE. THEY'LL TAKE TWO-FACE BACK TO *ARKHAM*.

THEN I WANT YOU TO CALL IT QUITS AND GO *HOME*. YOU'VE HAD *ENOUGH* EXCITEMENT FOR ONE NIGHT.

YES, SIR.

I'LL BE BACK...

"...AS SOON AS I CAN.

READ BEN URI
ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS
GETTING THE ANSWERS
DAILY

GO...

...WHERE DO WE START?

WE DON'T.

I'M TAKING YOU HOME--OR WHEREVER YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE--RIGHT NOW.

BE REAL. I'M PART OF THIS. I CAN HELP.

I'M SUPPOSED TO GET YOU OUT OF TROUBLE WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND, REMEMBER? HOW CAN I DO THAT IF YOU DITCH ME?

LOOK, THE DEAL WAS I TAKE YOU TO SEE ROBIN. I DID THAT.

AND AS FAR AS MING GOES, I'LL JUST HANDLE THAT MYSELF. I'M NOT TAKING ANOTHER CHANCE OF YOU GETTING HURT, SO YOU'RE OUTTA HERE.

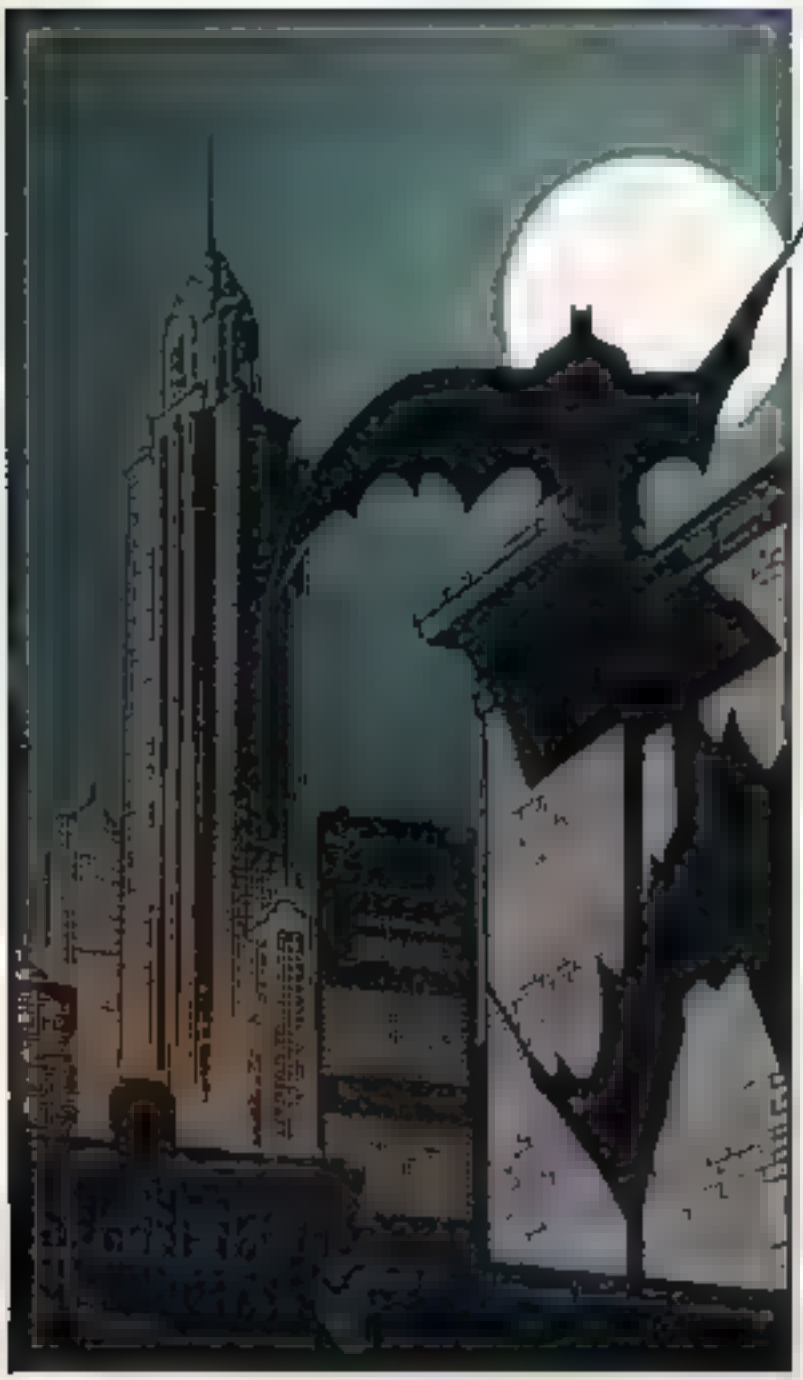
Hmph!

YEAH, RIGHT, LIKE I HAVEN'T GONE UP AGAINST EMPATH AND GENE NATION AND LIKE A BILLION OTHER BAD GUYS.

BE THAT WAY. I'LL SHOW YOU.

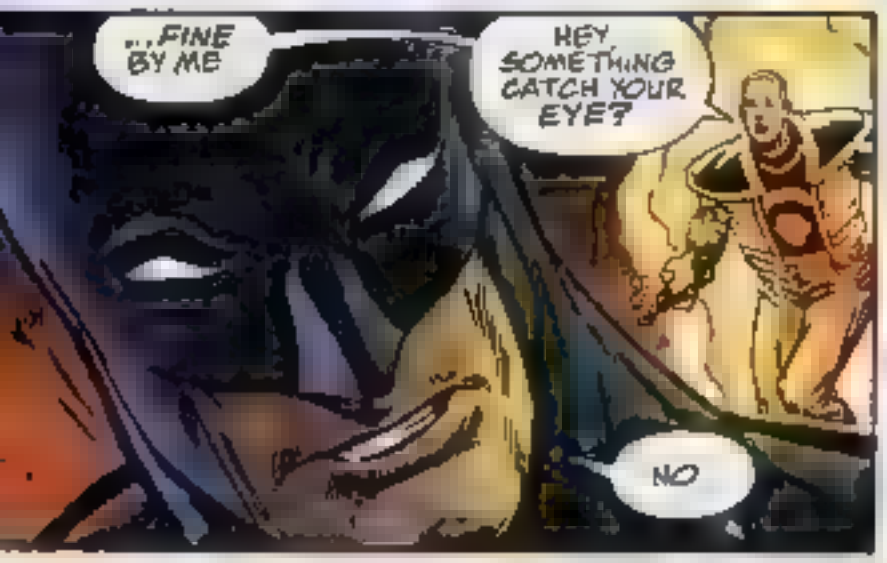
I'LL JUST BE GONE A FEW MINUTES, BATMAN. I'M TAKING HER HOME.

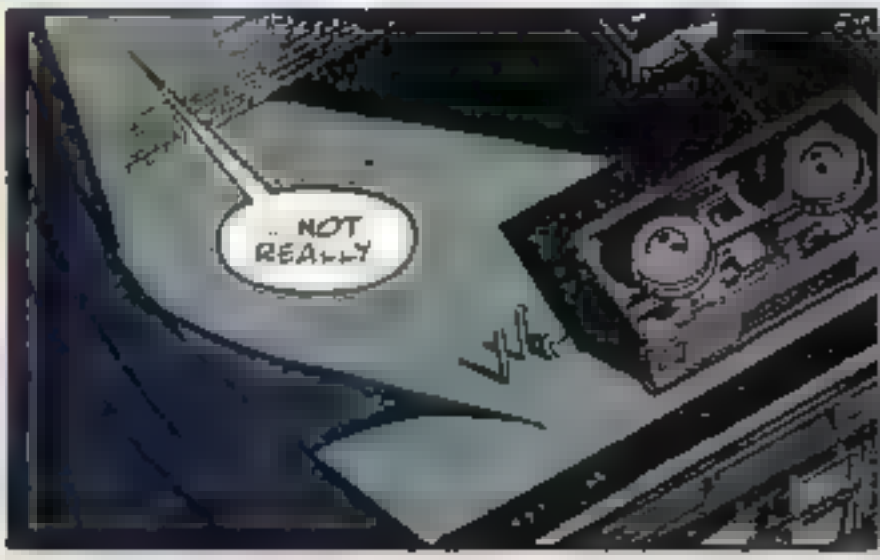
ACTUALLY, I HAVE SOMEPLACE ELSE IN MIND...



CAT WOMAN?
HERE?

NO.
SHE WANTED ME TO TAKE HER UP TO SOME MANSION N WEST-CHESTER


...FINE BY ME
HEY SOMETHING CATCH YOUR EYE?
NO


...NOT REALLY

START WITH WHAT WE KNOW TELL ME ANYTHING PERTINENT ESPECIALLY THIS "COMBINED UNIVERSE" YOU MENTIONED

IT HAPPENED, BUT NOBODY REMEMBERS IT JUST ME WHEN YOUR UNIVERSE AND THIS ONE WENT TO WAR. THERE WAS A PERIOD WHEN THEY WERE .

AMALGAMATED. FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD. THE TWO UNIVERSES COMBINED INTO ONE WHICH CONTAINED ASPECTS OF BOTH

PEOPLE, PLACES, EVERYTHING. IT WAS ALL JUMBLED. AND IT WOULD HAVE STAYED THAT WAY EXCEPT FOR THE KEYS.

"... KIND OF LIKE THE ESSENCES OF EACH UNIVERSE. I'D FIND ONE IN A HERO FROM EACH UNIVERSE YOU AND CAPTAIN AMERICA

"THE MOST POWERFUL BEING IN THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE WAS A SORCERER NAMED DOCTOR STRANGEFATE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE BESIDES ME WHO KNEW AMALGAM WASN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST

"AND HE KNEW ABOUT THE KEYS, TOO HE KNEW I COULD UNZIP HIS UNIVERSE WITH THEM BUT THAT WAS THE LAST THING HE WANTED

"HE INTENDED TO PRESERVE HIS UNIVERSE, SO HE SENT HIS AGENTS TO CAPTURE ME AND BRING ME TO HIS TOWER..."

TO H'B

TOWER

THE WINDOWS! THEY'RE THE SAME!

THAT'S GOT TO BE IT I WAS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET AND I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE IT!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I THINK I KNOW WHERE WE NEED TO GO. COME ON ..

"... WE HAVE TO GET DOWNTOWN!"

DON'T KNOW WHY IT DIDN'T DAWN ON ME BEFORE. I WALKED RIGHT PAST THIS PLACE COMING OUT OF THE BLEECKER STREET MANDARIN

AND I REMEMBER THINKING IT WAS STRANGE HOW I'D NEVER NOTICED IT *

SO ONLY NOW I MAKE THE CONNECTION? MAYBE I JUST NEEDED BATMAN'S PROMPTING TO MAKE ME THINK ABOUT IT.

BUT IS IT POSSIBLE SOMEBODY DIDN'T WANT ME TO REMEMBER?

SKULISH!

THAT'S WHAT BATMAN INTENDS TO FIND OUT

AND I'LL SAY THIS FOR HIM, HE SURE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE AN ENTRANCE

* ALL ACCESS #1

WHO ARE YOU?!

WHY DO YOU INVADE MY SANCTUM?!

I'M BATMAN...

...AND I'M HERE BECAUSE YOU THREATEN THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE AS WELL AS MY OWN

THREATEN TWO UNIVERSES? IMPOSSIBLE

A MINUTE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF. INTRUDER NO MORE

YOUNG MAN. YOU AND YOUR CLOAKED FRIEND HAVE BROKEN INTO THE HOME OF DOCTOR STRANGE.

HANG ON-- I CAN EXPLAIN! JUST DON'T CALL THE COPS OR ANYTHING

THE AUTHORITIES ARE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES

LOOK. EVERYTHING I'M GONNA SAY SOUNDS PRETTY WILD, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.

YOU'RE A SORCERER, RIGHT? SO I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU THERE ARE OTHER UNIVERSES. THE AMALGAM UNIVERSE WAS A MERGING OF YOUR UNIVERSE AND BATMAN'S

IN AMALGAM, YOU WERE PART OF A BEING NAMED DOCTOR STRANGEFATE WHO PRETTY MUCH RAN THE WHOLE SHOW.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INCIDENTS THAT MAKE IT SEEM LIKE SOMEONE OR SOMETHING WANTS AMALGAM TO RETURN

BECAUSE OF YOUR CONNECTION TO STRANGEFATE, YOU'RE THE MOST LIKELY SUSPECT

I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF TH'S AMALGAMATED UN VERSE YOU SPEAK OF

I AM SORCERER SUPREME SOME-THING OF THAT SCOPE WOULD NOT ESCAPE MY NOTICE.

IT ESCAPED EVERYBODY'S NOTICE, OR AT LEAST EVERY-BODY'S MEMORY. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS IT EXISTED

YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN BE AWARE OF WHAT'S HAPPEN NG IT COULD BE YOU KNOW, A SUBCONSCIOUS SORT OF THING

UNLIKELY

MY MYSTIC WARDS..

..THE EYE OF AGA-MOTTO, FOR INSTANCE

WOULD HAVE ALERTED ME TO SUCH A DISTURBANCE WITH N MY OWN PSYCHE YOU STR KE ME AS SINCERE, BUT I M AFRAID YOU RE MISTAKEN.

I M AFRAID WE CAN'T TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT NOT W TH THE STAKES AS HIGH AS THEY ARE

YOU'LL HAVE TO ACCOMPANY JS BACK TO MY UNIVERSE WE'LL CONTACT PEOPLE WHO CAN PROBE YOUR MIND

..ASCERTAIN WHETHER YOU TRULY ARE BLAMELESS.

S MPLY BECAUSE YOU INSIST, I SHOULD ALLOW MYSELF TO BE--?

WHAT?

BOY, I THOUGHT WE GOT HERE FAST...

...BUT LOOKS LIKE YOU BEAT US

DIDN'T WANT MY HELP BUT I SAID I'D SHOW YOU. SO I ROUNDED UP A FEW FRIENDS WHO WERE HANGING AROUND THE MANSION

SAY HI TO ICEMAN, PHOENIX, CANNONBALL, BISHOP, STORM AND CYCLOPS.

THE X-MEN

I FILLED 'EM IN ON THE DETAILS GUESS WE HAD THE SAME IDEA ABOUT COMING TO DOC FOR A HAND WITH THIS WHOLE COSMIC MIX-UP THING

THIS MAN IS NOT THE SOLUTION. HE IS VERY LIKELY THE PROBLEM

DOCTOR STRANGE THE PROBLEM? OBVIOUSLY THERE'S SOME SORT OF MISUNDERSTANDING.

STEPHEN STRANGE IS A PROVEN FRIEND TO THE X-MEN ONE OF OUR UNIVERSE'S MOST TRUSTED DEFENDERS

SO I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL THEM

AND I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL HIM HE MIGHT NOT KNOW HE'S THE PROBLEM

I COULD BE HIDDEN SOMEHOW EVEN FROM DOCTOR STRANGE HIMSELF

WE BETTER THAN ANYONE SHOULD UNDERSTAND A THREAT CAN BE BURIED WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT IT ESPECIALLY WITH IN SOMEONE YOU TRUST

BUT THERE'S A WAY WE CAN BE CERTAIN

JEAN?

I CAN TRY, SCOTT

I CAN EXPLORE YOUR MIND, STEPHEN SEARCH FOR ANYTHING UNEXPECTED OR UNUSUAL..

NOW MAYBE WE'LL GET SOMEWHERE

...SHOW ME ALL THAT YOU ARE

I CAN SEE YOU AS YOU WERE, A MAN OF THE MATERIAL WORLD A SURGEON, A HEALER, BUT WITHOUT HUMILITY.

[redacted] PERMISSION, OF COURSE

I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL FIND NOTHING, JEAN, BUT PERHAPS SOME PROOF WILL CONVINCE OUR VISITORS.

DO WHAT YOU WILL

[redacted] YOURSELF TO ME, [redacted] USUAL DEFENSES...

THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT, AND THEN ...DESPAIR A SEARCH. FINALLY YOUR MYSTIC AWAKENING.

THE ORDEALS YOU'VE ENDURED. TRIUMPHS, TRAGEDIES.

ENEMIES. LOVES. ALL THERE...

...BUT NOTHING ELSE. NOTHING THAT IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE NO TRACE OF ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS, STEPHEN

THANK YOU FOR VINDICATING ME, JEAN PERHAPS NOW WE CAN TURN OUR ATTENTION TO FINDING THE REAL CAUSE OF THESE DISTURBANCES

BUT..

...BUT I WAS SO SURE. IT ALL FIT, EVERYTHING POINTED TO HIM.

THIS ISN'T RIGHT, THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING ELSE SOMEHOW WE MISSED IT

MY WIFE'S OPINION IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME AND FORGIVE ME FOR SAYING SO..

...BUT YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY EXPERIENCED AT THIS.

I THINK YOU AND THE KID HAD BETTER BE MOVING ON. DOCTOR STRANGE ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T DO. NOT IF ACCESS STILL HAS DOUBTS.

I CAN PERSUADE YOU, POINTY-EARS.

I REALLY DOUBT THAT...

...BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY.

YOU ASKED!

NNGF!

WOK!

YOU'RE COMING ALONG, STRANGE!

THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED.

ACCESS, GET US OUT OF--

--HHF!

ZAK!

GRAB THEM BOTH! WE'LL SORT OUT THIS MESS AFTERWARD!

HE'S TOO FAST, STORM! PIN HIM DOWN!

HEY, GUYS, LET'S NOT LOSE OUR COOL HERE. GUYS?

GREAT.

I CAN'T HANDLE THIS.

OTHER ONE TUCKED TAIL AN' RAN, BUT AH'LL NAIL THE GUY IN THE CAPE!

CANNONBALL!

SAM, DON'T! HE'LL JUST USE YOUR MOMENTUM AGAINST--!

WHUMP!

GNF!

AHF!

NICE GOING, SAM. TAKE OUT YOURSELF AND STORM.

I'M NOT ALL THAT SURE WHO YOU ARE...

...BUT YOU'RE TAKING ON THE X-MEN. WE DON'T USUALLY START BRAWLS...

...BUT WE DO FINISH 'EM.

MY FOOTING...

DON'T MOVE...

...DON'T EVEN BREATHE.

NICE AND SLOW, OR YOU'LL BE TAKING YOUR MEALS THROUGH A TUBE.

LET'S SEE JUST WHO...

...HUH?

LET HIM GO.

NOW.

BOY, THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING...

NEXT: JLA VS. X-MEN!